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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE

BROMYARD RURAL DISTRICT.

1937

ISSUED JUNE, 1938.

Area Medical Office,

Leominster,

30th May, 1938.

*To the Chairman and Members,
Bromyard Rural District Council.*

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health and Sanitary Inspector for the year 1937. The form of the report is that recommended in Circular 1650 of the Ministry of Health.

I wish to acknowledge the work done by Mr. Watts, the Sanitary Inspector, as I have always found him most conscientious, and without his help the report would not show the progress which it does. A considerable amount of his work does not show in the report, as many improvements have been effected voluntarily by owners, farmers and others at his instigation.

The adoption of new byelaws for the Housing of Hop-pickers and the adoption for the first time of byelaws with regard to New Buildings, have considerably improved the control that can be exercised over unsuitable conditions and erections.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

DAVID G. ANDERSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health :

DAVID G. ANDERSON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

(Appointed October, 1935).

Area Medical Office, 4, Church Street, Leominster.

(Tel. No. : Leominster 95).

Sanitary Inspector :

THOMAS S. WATTS C.S.I.B., M.S.I.A., Cert. Meat
Inspector. (Appointed January, 1936).

“ Winholme,” New Road, Bromyard. (Tel. No. :
Bromyard 90).

Clerical Staff—Area Medical Office :

J. J. ADAMS.

DUTIES OF PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

The Medical Officer of Health, who is restricted from private practice, is also Medical Officer of Health for six other County Districts and Assistant County Medical Officer. In his latter capacity he is in charge of the tuberculosis and maternity and child welfare services in the district, he also carries out the medical inspection of school children in some of the schools; and keeps in close touch with the Medical Officer who is responsible for the other schools. The best possible co-ordination of the various health services is thus secured.

The Sanitary Inspector is a full time official and devotes all his time to housing and sanitary work, except for duties as Petroleum Inspector and Surveyor to the Isolation Hospital (Smallpox). He is also appointed Surveyor for the purpose of the building byelaws and Authorised Officer for the Housing (Rural Workers) Acts.

The clerk in the Area Medical Office is available for both district and county work.

STATISTICS OF THE AREA.

Area—in acres	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	61,047
Population—Census, 1931	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7,408
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population mid-year, 1937	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6,997
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1937) according to Rate Books	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,072
Number of structurally separate dwellings occupied (Census, 1931)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,864
Number of Private Families (Census, 1931)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,371
Rateable Value—£15.995.									
Sum represented by a Penny Rate—£77 10s. 2d.									

SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

The whole district is an agricultural one with the usual ancillary trades. There is one tilery in the district. The general wage level is low, as also are rents.

The difficulty in obtaining fresh milk in some of the parishes has been referred to in my previous reports.

PREVALENCE OF UNEMPLOYMENT.

There has been an increase in the amount of casual labour on the farms. The effects of unemployment have been mitigated by the working of the Unemployment Assistance Board.

Extracts from Vital Statistics of the year:

		Total.	M.	F.		
Live Births	Legitimate	99	45	54	Birth Rate per 1,000 of the est. res. pop. ...	15.29
	Illegitimate	8	5	3		
		<hr/> 107	<hr/> 50	<hr/> 57		
Stillbirths	... ..	3	1	2	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births ...	27.27
Deaths	... ..	104	50	54	Death Rate per 1,000 of the est. res. pop. ...	14.86
Standardised Death Rate						11.8

Deaths from Puerperal Causes (Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List):—

		DEATHS.	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still births).
No. 29—Puerperal Sepsis	... ..	Nil	Nil
No. 30—Other Puerperal Causes	... ..	1	9.09
Total	... ..	<hr/>1	<hr/> 9.09

Death Rate of infants under one year of age:—

(a) All infants per 1,000 live births	... ..	47
(b) Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	... ..	40
(c) Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	... ..	125

Deaths—From Cancer (all ages)	... ..	19
From Measles (all ages)	... ..	1
From Whooping Cough (all ages)	... ..	Nil
From Diarrhoea (under two years of age)	... ..	1

Particulars of any unusual or excessive mortality during the year which has received or required comment Nil

*Chief Statistics for England and Wales for the year 1937,
compared with those for Bromyard Rural District.*

	Rate per 1,000 pop.	Rate per 1,000 live births.	Maternal Mort. per 1,000 total births.		
	Live Births.	Deaths all causes.	Deaths under 1 yr. of age.	Puer. Sepsis.	Others.
England and Wales	14.9	12.4	58	0.94	2.17
Bromyard Rural District ...	15.29	*14.86	47	Nil	9.09

* The Standardised Death Rate is 11.8.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Staff.—See beginning of report.

Laboratory Facilities.

Bacteriological and chemical examinations are made at the County and City Public Health Laboratory, County Offices, Bath Street, Hereford. These examinations are carried out free of charge to the County Districts which is of great value. All results are communicated both to the private practitioner and the area medical officer of health so that action is taken as quickly as possible. Special examinations such as virulence tests in Diphtheria are carried out at Birmingham or Bristol University Laboratories.

The following examinations were made at the County Laboratory during the year:—

			Positive.	Negative.	Total.
For Diphtheria	...	...	5	25	30
For Tuberculosis	...	...	1	14	15
Other Examinations	...	...	0	2	2

Ambulance Facilities.

There have been no alterations during the year. No complaints as to inability to obtain an ambulance have been received. There is, however, no ambulance maintained in either the Urban or Rural Districts of Bromyard. The nearest ambulances in Herefordshire are at Leominster and Hereford.

Infectious diseases are dealt with by the Hereford Rural District Council Ambulance under the agreement for the treatment of these diseases.

Nursing in the Home.

This is carried out as regards the non-infectious diseases by the various Nursing Associations. Nurse-midwives are employed, the Associations being paid by the County Council for the midwifery, school medical and child welfare work of the nurses. No complaints of inadequacy have been received and now there are no parts of the district uncovered.

The following are the Associations working in the district with the villages served.

Bishop's Frome:—Bishop's Frome, Frome's Hill, Evesbatch, Acton Beauchamp.

Bromyard:—Avenbury, Winslow, Brockhampton, Edwin Ralph, Linton, Bredenbury, Collington, Thornbury, Edwin Loach, Pencombe, Saltmarshe, Little Cowarne, Stanford Bishop, Tedstone Wafer, Norton, Grendon Bishop, Wacton.

Cradley:—Cradley, Storridge.

Docklow:—Hampton Charles.

Ocle Pychard.—Ocle Pychard, Much Cowarne, Moreton Jeffries, Ullingswick, Stoke Lacy, Felton.

Whitbourne:—Whitbourne, Tedstone Delamere, Wolferlow, Upper Sapey.

There is no provision for the nursing in the home of cases of infectious disease.

Treatment Centres and Clinics.

There are none provided by the Authority. Provided or subsidised by the County Council are the Tuberculosis Dispensary (11.30 a.m.) and the Child Welfare Centre (2 to 4 p.m.) held every fortnight on a Thursday (market day in Bromyard) at Froome Bank, Bromyard. The Medical Officer of Health as Assistant County Medical Officer attends both.

The Venereal Disease treatment clinic is at the Public Assistance Institution, Hereford.

The British Red Cross Society's Orthopædic Clinic at Hereford is available for this district.

Hospitals.

There are no hospitals maintained by this authority.

The Public Assistance Institution just outside the town of Bromyard has sick and maternity beds.

The Voluntary Hospitals serving the district are the General Hospital and Victoria Eye Hospital at Hereford, The Royal Infirmary and Eye Hospital at Worcester, and the Great Malvern Hospital. None of these are situated in the district.

The Infectious Disease Hospitals are at Stretton Sugwas and Bromyard and are available as detailed under "The prevalence of and control over infectious disease."

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLY.

There have been no complaints of shortage.

There are no public piped supplies, though in some parishes private piped supplies are laid on to more than one house.

The following parishes have public wells:—Brockhampton, Norton, Upper Sapey, Whitbourne. Certain other parishes also have wells which are used by the inhabitants at large.

During the year 42 samples were taken and submitted to the County Laboratory. Bacteriological examinations as well as chemical analyses were made, some waters being submitted to both tests and some to only one. A summary of the results is given below:—

Method of Examination.	Pure.	Polluted.	Doubtful.	Total
Chemical ...	10	7	9	26
Bacteriological ...	3	7	6	16

In all cases where the results are “polluted” or “doubtful,” remedial measures were undertaken without further steps being necessary.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

There are no sewage disposal schemes in the district, nor are there any sewers draining more than a few houses or cottages.

No satisfactory solution to the disposal of sewage at Bishop's Frome has yet been found, having in view the small number of houses connected, and the cost of any extensive scheme.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

The only place where there is definite pollution of a river is at the town of Bromyard, and an application for sanction to a loan for a comprehensive scheme is now before the Ministry of Health.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Conversions made during the year are referred to in the Sanitary Inspector's report. There are no areas in this district which can be described as populous and closely built. The number of conversions of privies to pail closets is twenty-one as compared with thirty-eight in 1936 and eighteen in the previous five years.

These conversions are very desirable as rendering wells less liable to be polluted.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

There are no scavenging schemes in the district. The only parish in which nuisance is likely to arise is Cradley, which is the most developed of the parishes, and has much residential property.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

-The Sanitary Inspector's report is given below and includes his comments on certain matters.

Report under Article 27 of the Sanitary Officers' (Outside London) Regulations, 1935.

INSPECTIONS UNDER				No. of Inspections.	Informal Notices served.	Statutory Notices served.	Notices complied with.
Housing Act, 1936	...	...	...	310	38	3	31
Housing (Public Health Acts)	...	...	...	39	2	—	2
Bakehouses	...	...	...	23	3	1	3
Workshops and Factories	...	...	...	30	—	—	—
Cowsheds and Dairies	...	...	...	338	15	—	10
Schools	...	...	...	7	3	—	2
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	208	2	—	2
Water Supplies	...	...	...	45	7	—	4
Infectious Disease	...	...	...	29	—	—	—
Nuisances	...	...	...	7	3	—	3
Hop-pickers' Quarters	...	...	...	195	9	—	6

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Cases inquired into	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Number of Visits in connection with notification	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	29
Premises Fumigated (other than Schools)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Schools Disinfected	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Lots of Clothing Disinfected	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

Mode of Disinfection:—

(a) Houses: By Formalin Gas.

(b) Bedding: By spraying with liquid Formalin.

WATER SUPPLIES.

Number of Samples submitted for Analysis:—

(a) Piped Supplies	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
(b) Wells	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	29
(c) Streams	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Number of Wells Closed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Number of Wells Sunk	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Number of Wells Cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5

HOUSE DRAINS.

(1) New Drains Laid:—								
(a) New Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
(b) Old Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
(2) Drains Repaired or Re-laid	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
(3) Drains Cleansed, Trapped or Ventilated	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
(4) Inspection or Intercepting Chambers Provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
(5) Cesspools:—								
(a) Constructed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
(b) Repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
(6) New Sinks and Drains to:—								
(a) New Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
(b) Old Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
(7) Drains Tested	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17

WATER CLOSETS.

(1) Provided to:—								
(a) New Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
(b) Old Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
(2) Rebuilt or Repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

PRIVIES.

(1) Converted to W.C.'s	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
(2) Converted to Pails	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21

This is the most common type of Sanitary Accommodation found to exist in the district. Even where attempts are made to maintain this type in a cleanly condition, it still remains as the most objectionable method of soil removal.

PAILS.

(1) Erected	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
(2) Repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
(3) Abolished	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
(4) Converted to W.C.'s	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3

This type of Sanitary Accommodation is gradually replacing the insanitary privy. Fifty-nine conversions have been effected during the past two years. In the majority of these cases, occupiers have expressed satisfaction with the conversion.

BAKEHOUSES.

Number in District	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Number of Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	23
Defects found	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3

Nature of Defects:—

(1) Accumulation of manure in proximity of Bakehouses.

(2) Required Limewashing.

None of the Bakeries in the district sell wrapped bread.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

Number of Registered Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	7
Number of Licensed Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Number of Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	208

Total Number of Killings in the District.—

(a) Bullocks and Heifers	...	...	...	...	...	46
(b) Cows	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
(c) Bulls	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
(d) Calves	...	...	...	...	...	1
(e) Sheep	...	...	...	...	...	109
(f) Pigs	...	...	...	...	...	97

MEAT DESTROYED.

	Entire Carcases.		Parts of Carcase or organs.	
	Tuberculosis.	Other conditions.	Tuberculosis.	Other conditions.
Bullocks or Heifers...	Nil	—	—	35lbs.
Cows	Nil	—
Bulls	Nil	—
Calves	Nil	—
Sheep	Nil	2 (158lbs.)
Pigs	Nil	39lbs. (3 heads, 5 mesenteries)

Total Weight, 277lbs.

Method of Inspection:—Procedure followed in accordance with Memo. 62/Foods.

MILK AND DAIRIES ORDER, 1926.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.

Number on Register as:—

(1) Wholesale Purveyors	...	...	...	...	...	309
(2) Retail Purveyors	...	...	...	...	...	30
Number of Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	338

Some progress in the repair and improvement of Cowsheds has been made, but the majority of the cowsheds in the District are still below standard. Further progress towards raising the standard is expected in the forthcoming year but it will be some considerable time before the whole of the district can reach the level of conditions under which it would be assured that the milk produced could be described as a safe supply and otherwise satisfactory in all respects.

Samples of milk are taken quarterly from Producers of Accredited Milk, on behalf of the County Council. During the year 109 samples of milk were taken, of which 88 complied with the prescribed conditions and 21 failed to comply.

Twenty-five licences were issued by the County Council for the production of Accredited Milk as compared with 28 in the previous year.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

Bakehouses	...	...	...	6	Wheelwrights	...	...	2
Blacksmiths	...	...	...	15	Carpenters	...	...	5
Boot Repairers	...	...	...	3	Sawmills	...	...	2
Builders	...	...	...	7	Tileries	...	...	1
Garages	...	...	...	9				
Number of Inspections of Factories	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Number of Inspections of Workshops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	51
Defects found and remedied	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3

HOP-PICKERS' QUARTERS.

All farms on which hop-pickers were accommodated were inspected during the year.

The method of inspection followed was in the first instance, that of an inspection approximately one month before the pickers were received, an inspection whilst the pickers were in the quarters and a further inspection in company with the Medical officer of Health. Occasional visits were also made as the circumstances required.

Generally, the quarters showed a considerable improvement on previous years, the most noticeable improvements being the provision of more adequate and suitable cooking accommodation and, in some cases, the provision of wash-houses.

Only in one case was there any serious infringement of the Byelaws, but it is anticipated that similar conditions will not occur next year at this farm.

There were no prosecutions this year in connection with the infringement of the Byelaws.

THOMAS S. WATTS,

Winholme, New Road,
Bromyard.

C.S.I.B., M.S.I.A.

HOUSING.

The general standard of working class houses in the district is very low, and there is a very considerable number of unfit houses. Official representations have been made as to 23 houses and with the 3 last year makes 26 in all since a more systematic inspection of the houses has been made. The inspection of further houses is in progress, and official representations will be made as to those which are not repairable at reasonable expense.

Before any action is taken with regard to unfit houses, the notice of the owners is drawn to the facilities offered under the Housing (Rural Workers) Acts. In a few cases the structure or position of the house is such that it would not be possible to recommend the Council that a grant would be desirable. The attention of the Council is drawn to the fact that 33 houses were rendered fit by informal action on the part of the officers, the co-operation of the owners of these properties is much appreciated.

Of the 23 representations, demolition orders were made in respect of 3 of the houses. Undertakings as to uses were accepted in 8 cases, in 8 cases undertakings to repair were accepted, while in 4 cases action was postponed on the grounds that other accommodation was not available for the tenants.

Re-housing accommodation is urgent, and complaints have also been received from farmers of inability to obtain accommodation for their workmen. The Housing (Financial Provisions) Bill with its retrospective clause and the very good Exchequer and very small District and County Council subsidy removes any reason for delaying a programme further. A district rate of 1d. would enable some 70 houses to be erected and let at low rentals, perhaps not quite so low as a tied cottage but not greater than many agricultural labourers are paying for houses which are in many respects unfit and lacking in essential amenities.

The provision of good housing is of vital importance both for health and in inducing people to remain in the rural areas.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

Number of New Houses erected during the year:—

(a) Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
(b) With State Assistance under the Housing Acts:—										
(i) By Local Authority	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
(ii) By other bodies or persons	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the Year:—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	92
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	349
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	...	80
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	80

(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	23
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	56
2. Remedy of Defects during the Year without service of formal Notices:—	
Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	33
3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year:—	
(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:—	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs	1
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—	
(a) By Owners	1
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners ...	Nil
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—	
(a) By Owners	Nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners ...	Nil
(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:—	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	3
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	Nil
(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:—	
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	Nil
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	Nil

4.—Housing Act, 1936—Part IV.—Overcrowding:—

(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	25
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein	27
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein	158
<u>(b)</u> Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	1
(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	3
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases	18
(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding ...	Nil
(e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report.	

No direct action has been taken during the year, and there is only an abatement in two cases compared with the end of 1936.

The 25 houses still overcrowded would appear to be the minimum that should be dealt with. As no building has taken place under slum clearance and eight families are waiting to be re-housed, the provision of more housing is urgent, and the two programmes could well be considered as one.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASE.

Forty-two cases of infectious disease were notified during the year compared with forty-six in 1936. The number of cases of each disease is given in the table below together with the age incidence and the number of cases admitted to hospital (this does not include cases removed to hospital privately).

Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria.

The cases of Scarlet Fever were sporadic except for four cases which occurred in one house, one of these cases was a return case. The three cases of Diphtheria also arose in this house after return from hospital where they had been removed for Scarlet Fever.

Influenza.

In common with the rest of the country this disease was epidemic in the early part of the year.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) during 1937.

Disease.	CASES NOTIFIED.													Cases and over.	Cases ad. to H'p.	T'tl Dts.
	All ages.	Under 1 yr.	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45	65				
Scarlet Fever	11	—	—	1	1	1	7	1	—	—	—	—	—	7	—	
Diphtheria	3	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	
Erysipelas	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	
Pneumonia	15	1	—	—	1	—	3	—	1	4	1	1	3	—	4	
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	
Ophthalmia																
Neonatorum	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Total ...	34	2	—	1	2	2	11	2	1	5	2	3	3	10	4	

ISOLATION HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.

During 1937 ten cases from the District were admitted to the Credenhill Isolation Hospital. No cases have been refused admission, but, on occasion we have had to wait while it was ascertained whether there was a vacant bed.

The present arrangement is that the Hospital is owned and worked by the Hereford Rural District, which also rents the old Bromyard Isolation Hospital as a Smallpox Hospital. The Rural and Urban Districts of Bromyard retain four beds between them. The retaining fee is £15 per bed. The Councils are only entitled to have the number of patients in hospital for which they retain beds. The only two diseases, other than Smallpox, in the agreement are Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria, moreover they must not be complicated on admission by either having been in contact with or, even more important, by being actual sufferers from some other infectious disease. The hospital authorities have always, but as an act of grace, taken in other infections such as Typhoid Fever, Cerebro-Spinal Fever, and the like. They have, also, not insisted on the number of patients being limited and as many as six cases have been in hospital from one district at one time. No attempt has been made to obtain extra payment for these cases, maintenance charges being the same as for those cases covered by the retaining fee.

The facts are quite definite as regards the present arrangements.

(a) The number of beds available under the agreement for each authority is inadequate.

(b) The diseases treated under the agreement are too limited. The inability to obtain accommodation for complicated cases of measles, whooping cough and influenza was mentioned in last year's report.

The use of a common hospital has proved its worth in more beds being available for a given authority at a given time than would have been the case if provision had been made in a small hospital for that authority only.

The importance of having definite arrangements for the treatment of all infectious diseases cannot be overstressed. Delay through having to find or improvise accommodation may seriously jeopardise the chances of recovery of the patient.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Period.	NEW CASES				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary.		Non- Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non- Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
10	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20	1	1	—	—	3	—	—	—
25	1	—	—	—	2	1	—	1
35	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
45	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
55	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 & upwd	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total ...	3	2	1	2	5	1	0	1

At the end of 1936 there were eighteen cases on the Register. During 1937 eleven cases were added, and eight were removed.

SCHOOLS.

Sanitation, etc., see Report for 1935.

CLOSURES:—

Cradley C. of E.	...	...	...	8-2-37—12-2-37. Influenza. 11-6-37—25-6-37. Measles.
Cradley Storridge	...	...	...	6-1-37—8-1-37. Coughs & Colds. 12-1-37—15-1-37. Influenza.
Much Cowarne	...	...	...	4-3-37—19-3-37. Measles.
Stoke Lacy	...	...	...	25-1-37—29-1-37. Influenza.
Thornbury	...	...	...	1-3-37—5-3-37. Influenza.
Ullingswick	...	...	...	25-2-37—5-3-37. Influenza.
Upper Sapey	...	...	...	29-1-37—5-2-37. Influenza.
Whitbourne	...	...	...	20-1-37—29-1-37. Influenza.

ADULTERATION OF FOOD, ETC.

The administration of these acts and regulations is carried out by the County Council through the police.

. CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD.

There are no laboratories carrying out such work in the district. The bacteriological and other examination of food stuffs in cases of suspected food poisoning would be dealt with under the Ministry of Health's scheme.

NUTRITION.

Teaching by talks in the Infant Welfare Centres (in addition to individual advice) has been carried out. At school medical inspections the teachers are requested to give their views on the feeding of the children and general questions, such as the need for iodised salt in the prevention of goitre, are discussed.

HEALTH EDUCATION.

Talks are given by the Medical Officer of Health at clubs, Women's Institutes, etc., on request.

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.

The County Council carry out all the work under this heading. Your Medical Officer of Health as Assistant County Medical Officer arranges for the treatment of cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

In the Annual Report for 1936 it was advised that hospital accommodation for cases of infectious disease other than Diphtheria or Scarlet Fever was required and this would apply to cases where complications involving the eyes arose.

The cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum dealt with are summarised below.

CASES.							Total Blind- ness.	Deaths.
Notified.	At home.	Treated. In hospital.	Vision unimpaired.	Vision impaired.				
1	1	—	1	—		—		—

CAUSES OF DEATH, 1937.

								M.	F.
1. Measles (2)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	1
2. Influenza (6)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	3
3. Tuberculosis of respiratory system (9)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	1
4. Other Tuberculous diseases (10)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	1
5. Cancer, malignant disease (13)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	9
6. Diabetes (14)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
7. Heart Disease (16)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18	13
8. Other circulatory diseases (18)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	6
9. Bronchitis (19)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	1
10. Pneumonia (all forms) (20)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2
11. Peptic ulcer (22)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	1
12. Diarrhoea, etc. (under 2 years) (23)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	1
13. Other digestive diseases (27)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	0
14. Acute and chronic nephritis (28)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	0
15. Other puerperal causes (30)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	1
16. Congenital debility, premature birth, malformations etc. (31)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	3
17. Suicide (33)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	2
18. Other violence (34)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	2
19. Other defined causes (35)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	6
Total								104	
								50	54

(The figures in brackets refer to the Registrar-General's Short List).

INFANT MORTALITY, 1937.

Nett deaths from stated causes at various ages under one year of age:—

Atelectasis	...	...	1	...	Female, 5 hours.
Gastro-enteritis	...	...	1	...	Female, 3 months.
Fractured Skull	...	...	1	...	Male, 9 months.
Prematurity	...	...	2	...	Female, 22 hours.
				...	Female, 3 minutes.
			—		
			5		
			—		

Nett deaths in year of	{ Legitimate Infants		...	4
	{ Illegitimate Infants		...	1

ADOPTIVE LEGISLATION, Etc.

During the year Byelaws were adopted for:—

- (1) Housing of Hop-pickers, etc.
- (2) New Buildings.

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